Claims:

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1. A software system for generating, from a first page description file having portions wherein each portion includes content, a second page description file, comprising:

2

    a computer-readable medium; and

4

    a routine stored in the computer-readable medium and including

        a first routine that provides for generation of a template,

6

        a second routine that provides for extraction of data indicative of the portions of the first page description file to generate a database

8

    for storing the data indicative of the portions of the first page description file, and

10

        a third routine that generates the second page description file from the template and the database.

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2. The software system of claim 1, wherein the first routine provides a user interface for establishing placeholders in the template.

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3. The software system of claim 2, wherein the user interface comprises a page make-up software application and a placeholder definition routine for establishing the placeholders in the template.

2

4. The software system of claim 3, wherein the page make-up software application comprises QuarkXPress®.

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5. The software system of claim 1, wherein the first routine generates the template in accordance with the portions of the first page description file.

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6. The software system of claim 1, wherein:

2 the database comprises a plurality of fields; and

the second routine provides a user interface for characterizing each

4 portion of the portions of the first page description file as an instance of at

least one of the fields of the plurality of fields of the database.

7. The software system of claim 1, wherein:

2 each portion of the first page description file comprises a first data

portion and a second data portion; and

4 the second routine provides a user interface for parsing each portion of

the first page description file to separate the first data portion from the second

6 data portion.

8. The software system of claim 7, wherein the first data portion of

2 each portion comprises content data and the second data portion of each

portion comprises control data.

9. The software system of claim 8, wherein the user interface of the

2 second routine stores the first data portion of each portion in the database.

10. The software system of claim 1, wherein the template is associated

2 with a plurality of pages to be printed in a book.

11. The software system of claim 1, wherein:

2 the database comprises a plurality of records;

the template is one of a plurality of templates; and

4 each record of the database comprises information indicative of a

certain template of the plurality of templates.

12. The software system of claim 1, wherein:

2   the portions of the first page description file comprise an image element; and

4   the second routine further generates an image file for storing image data indicative of the image element.

13. The software system of claim 12, wherein the third routine

2   generates the second page description file from the image file.

14. The software system of claim 1, wherein the routine comprises a

2   fourth routine that provides for modifying the data stored in the database prior to generation of the second page description file.

15. The software system of claim 14, wherein the fourth routine

2   provides a user interface for modifying the data stored in the database.

16. A method of generating, from a first page description file having

2   portions wherein each portion includes content, a second page description file,

the method comprising the steps of:

4   generating a template;

        extracting data indicative of the portions of the first page description

6   file to generate a database that stores the data indicative of the portions of the

first page description file; and

8   generating the second page description file from the template and the

database.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the template generating step

2   comprises the step of establishing placeholders in a file developed in a page

make-up software application.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the template generating step

2   generates the template in accordance with the portions of the first page

description file.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein:

2   the database comprises a plurality of fields; and

        the data extracting step comprises the step of characterizing each

4   portion of the first page description file as an instance of at least one of the

fields of the plurality of fields of the database.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein:

2   each portion of the first page description file comprises a first data portion and a second data portion; and

4   the data extracting step comprises the step of parsing each portion of the first page description file to separate the first data portion from the second

6   data portion.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the first data portion of each

2   portion comprises content data and the second data portion of each portion comprises control data.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the data extracting step

2   comprises the step of storing the first data portion of each portion in the database.

23. The method of claim 16, wherein the template is associated with a

2   plurality of pages to be printed in a book.

24. The method of claim 16, wherein:

2   the template is one of a plurality of templates;

       the database comprises a plurality of records; and

4   each record in the database identifies a certain template of the plurality of templates.

25. The method of claim 16, wherein:

2   the portions of the first page description file comprise an image element; and

4   the data extracting step comprises the step of generating an image file for storing image data indicative of the image element.

26. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of

2   modifying the data stored in the database to reflect modified content such that the second page description file generating step comprises the step of

4   generating the second page description file from the modified data stored in the database.